

# Ignorance or the Will?

A thought by Rev. Michael Hammond Sr.

Hosea 4:6 (NASB) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

This verse is commonly quoted in the church today. Scripture says my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge but that is not the only thing we are destroyed by. Hosea says the curse has actually come because the people of God have **rejected** knowledge and **forgotten** knowledge. The Apostle Paul (in Romans 1:18) says God's wrath was revealed against those who have **suppressed** knowledge.

Let me say a few things about ignorance.

1. If a disciple is ignorant of a thing they should ask God.
2. If a disciple is ignorant of a thing they should ask their pastors, teachers, and spiritual leaders/mentors.
3. If a disciple is ignorant of a thing they should seek out sources of knowledge provided from God and spiritual leaders/mentors.

Failure to do this says the ignorance and any corresponding behaviors are not an issue of ignorance, but of the will. The issue is not a lack of knowledge, but the rejection of it.

James 1:5-8 (NASB) But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup>being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 4:1-3 (NASB) What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? <sup>2</sup>You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

One can reject knowledge either by choosing not to accept it when others present it or by simply choosing not to seek after it on their own and for themselves. Scripture tells us to seek after it (Proverbs 4:1-13, 23:23). When people say they will pray about a thing and end up saying they did not hear anything, or God did not give them understanding, doublemindedness, lust and failure to submit their will to the Lordship of Jesus Christ are often the issue (James 1:5-8, 4:1-3). Jesus tells us if we (keep on) asking Him we shall receive the answer (Luke 11:5-13).

A love for God and the desire to obey God completely fuels a desire to seek knowledge from God and the people and resources He has provided us (Jeremiah 29:13).

Having said that, if a change needs to take place in a person's life, you share with them the word and wisdom of God and things do not change then clearly the issue is not one of knowledge, right? Nevertheless, we often double our efforts sharing more and more information in hopes that the person will eventually "understand". If understanding and knowledge are not the issue, then our response to the issue must change. We must stop the gathering and presenting of information to the "ignorant" and pray that the Holy Spirit would convict them and that they will repent and turn to God.

In closing, James 1:25 (NASB) says, *"But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does."*

I encourage each of us to keep this lesson in mind, reflect upon it and to make changes in our lives to better walk according to it today.

Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MDS', written in a cursive style.